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November 26, 2019

VIA EMAIL ONLY

john.aaron@usmc.mil

Major John Aaron
Command Legal Advisor, 4th Marine Division
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Marine Corps Support Facility
2000 Opelousas Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Re: Sgt Gerald DuRousseau, USMCR

Dear Major Aaron:

Our firm represents Sgt Gerald DuRousseau, USMCR. Recently, Sgt DuRousseau contacted us because he had received an investigative inquiry from his commanding officer, Major Nathan Steffes, about a report made against him by Ms. Emily Bone to NCIS. I am writing to inform you that Sgt DuRousseau hereby exercises his rights against self-incrimination and to have the assistance of counsel. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Sgt DuRousseau will cooperate fully with any investigation.

While we have not received any particular information about the allegations made by Ms. Bone, on behalf of Sgt DuRousseau, I state that he denies any allegations of wrongdoing. Sgt DuRousseau was previously in a relationship with Ms. Bone, however, the couple broke up in early September of this year. Since then, she obtained a Protective Order against him in the General District Court of Arlington County, Virginia. We believe that the General District Court erred in awarding this relief and we have filed an appeal with the Circuit Court of Arlington County, Virginia. A trial *de novo* will take place in April of 2020. At no time did any incident or action involving Ms. Bone occur while Sgt DuRousseau was under Orders or in connection with or in relation to any matter involving his service in the Marine Corps Reserves.

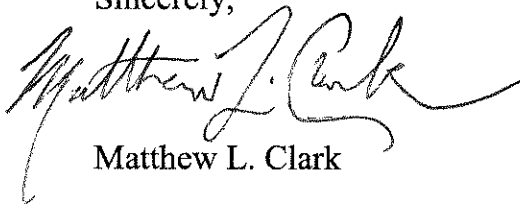
Since Ms. Bone obtained a Protective Order, she has contacted Sgt DuRousseau more than 20 times. In all instances, he has refused to respond to her. Her messages to him and to others confirm by her own admission that she is motivated by a desire to hurt and harm his reputation and career, rather than a legitimate need for a Protective Order. Notably, based on her harassing communications, Sgt DuRousseau sought and obtained a Preliminary Protective Order against Ms. Bone to bar her from further contacting him. A trial on that matter is set for next month.

Sgt DuRousseau has been open and upfront with his chain of command about these matters since receiving a Summons to appear in the General District Court in September 2019. He reported it in a timely manner and presented all details when asked.

Sgt DuRousseau denies any and all allegations of wrongdoing by Ms. Bone. He values his good name, his career, and his reputation, and desires to continue serving our nation in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew L. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew L. Clark

MLC

cc: Major Nathan Steffes, USMC (via email only)
Sgt Gerald Cyle DuRousseau, USMCR (via email only)